

**Dead Indian Road
Plans Under Way**

H. G. Enders, Frank Moore and B. R. Greer are in Medford today consulting Superintendent Steel of the Crater Lake national park in regard to the proposed work on the Dead Indian road during the coming summer.

The department of the interior has perfected a plan and will present it to congress this session to advance money to the counties containing national forest reserves for road work. Under the present plan congress donates one-third of the sales on standing timber in forest reserves to the county in which the reserve is located for road purposes. Under this system the money is derived in such small payments that it is scarcely enough to keep up the roads in the worst places.

Under the plan to be presented this winter the standing timber will be valued and the one-third valuation advanced to the counties to be used at once and the sum deducted from the amount due when the sale actually occurs, whether in ten, twenty or fifty years. This money will at once become available for road work in the parks and adjoining work in counties under the supervision of the department of the interior.

A unit under this system has been laid out through the Crater Lake park down to the Dead Indian road, thence to Ashland and up Ashland canyon to the butte.

It is this unit of the road the Commercial Club appointed the committee to interview Superintendent Steel about. The timber has already been cruised, the value determined, the preliminary work on the unit outlined, and the department has approved the plan. If congress can be made to see the wisdom of this plan it will be put into force at once.

The Commercial Club will lend whatever influence it can to bring the matter properly to the attention of the Oregon members in congress. The committee will report at the club meeting tonight.

**Transformers Are
Burned Out**

Starting from some unknown cause, flames completely consumed the Ashland sub-station of the Siskiyou Electric Light and Power Company Thursday evening and plunged a large part of the city into darkness. The city fire truck made a fast run to the plant, which lay across Bear creek at the foot of Mountain avenue, but were unable to check the progress of the fire. Both tanks of chemicals were turned on the flames, but proved to be useless against the burning transformer oil.

No damage was done except in the destroyed sub-station, all of the outside switches and apparatus being unharmed. Several thousand dollars' worth of transformers and other apparatus are a total loss.

Before the fire was well under way Manager Malone had men and material for repairs on the way from Medford and in about twenty-four hours service was resumed as usual. The temporary plant consists of two transformers which were connected up while on the trucks for Friday evening's use, and which are now on a temporary platform. Where the plant will be rebuilt has not been decided.

Had Medford not had the two extra transformers on hand it might have been a matter of weeks before service could be resumed, as they weigh in the neighborhood of 8,000 pounds and can be procured only in the east.

The Vining Theatre was compelled to close its New Year's watch program and the Elks dance was finished by candlelight.

**New School Year
Opens January 25**

The second semester of the city schools will open January 25. All primary pupils that will be six years of age April 1 may enter at this time. Those living east of Gresham street will go to the East Side school and those living west of Gresham will go to the West Side building.

The holiday season vacation closed today and the troubles of the small boy and girl are again taken up.

Ladies' suit sale at Enders'.

**New Year was
Happily Greeted**

New Year's festivities in and around Ashland were many. Nineteen hundred and fifteen was ushered in by the usual bedlam of noise, whistles, bells, the blowing of horns and other customary means of racket-making, combined to announce to even the heaviest sleeper the glad new year had arrived.

Several of the churches held services, watch parties were numerous, and the Elks entertained their favored friends with a very enjoyable ball. The Vining Theatre was to have showed until midnight, but the burning of the sub-station and the consequent failure of lights and power brought the entertainment to an early close.

The Elks ball was the biggest social event of New Year's eve, about one hundred couples attending. Although not quite as formal an affair as the Thanksgiving dance, the event was most highly enjoyed by those present. Simple refreshments were served cafeteria style in the banquet room during the evening. The high-class music furnished by a local orchestra of five pieces under the direction of Golden Herndon was a pleasant surprise to the music lovers present. A cessation of dancing was caused by the failure of the lights early in the evening, but candles and an auto headlight were procured and the dance continued, the unusual illumination adding to rather than detracting from the evening's enjoyment. The Elks dancing committee, of which William Dodge is chairman, had the event in charge.

**Motor Discontinued
Auto Gets Trade**

On Tuesday, January 5, the Southern Pacific Company will discontinue the motor service between this city and Grants Pass. This action is due to the auto service which has been established since the completion of the paved highway between Ashland and Central Point, and which, on account of the lower fares, has secured the largest part of the interurban travel, thus rendering further motor service unprofitable.

In order that the residents of the smaller places may have railroad service, train No. 13 will stop on on flag at Rogue River, Ray Gold, Tolo, Phoenix and Talent; No. 16 on flag at Ray Gold.

The discontinuance is much to be regretted, but the company could hardly do otherwise under the circumstances. One crew of four men will have to seek another run.

The local uptown station will probably be used but little from now on and hopes for an up-to-date building, in place of the present unbecomingly edifice, have gone glimmering.

**Ray Minkler To
Manage Vining**

Ray Minkler became manager of the Vining Theatre the first of the year. Professor Vining will leave the first of February for New York to take up his vocational work among the young men of the country. Professor Vining has his heart in the work of inducing young men to walk in the way of health, strength and better morals. He has planned all along to return to New York, which is the natural field for his labors.

Mr. Minkler is arranging to discontinue his business and devote his time entirely to the theatre and the springs commission work. He wishes to change his occupation and thus get a needed rest and at the same time keep occupied.

The same high standard of photography will be continued in the future that has made the Vining so popular among young and old alike.

**Elks New Home
Opened at Medford**

The Medford Elks opened their new \$60,000 club on the corner of North Central and Fifth streets in that city on New Year's eve with a reception and ball. The new home of Medford lodge B. P. O. E., No. 1168, is a beautiful two-story structure of cement and brick. It is furnished throughout with the best furniture obtainable and is finished inside with natural woods.

**Mineral Springs Project
May Go Forward Now**

Ever since the bonds failed to sell last July the springs water commission has been figuring on some feasible plan whereby the mineral springs project could be put forward.

The bond market was off and it seemed improbable that Ashland auxiliary water bonds would be absorbed by the regular market at par. Under the ordinance the council could not offer them except on sealed bids at not less than par and accrued interest. The problem was how to sell bonds at par on a bad market and go forward with construction work.

Four months ago Smith, Emery & Company came forward with an offer to install the complete physical springs plant and accept bonds for the work. This the springs commission was unable to do because no detail plans and specifications were at hand and the commission had no funds with which to secure them.

The springs commission ransacked the country for a bid on the bonds and the only bona fide offer was from an Ashland citizen, through the First National Bank, who offered to take five thousand dollars of the issue at par, provided all the bonds were sold. The only other offer was by a bond house on a basis of 91 cents on the dollar. These two offers only were the fruits of diligent and persistent effort on the part of the commission for five months. So the commission despaired of being able to sell the issue to a bond house en bloc at par, as it was hoped to do. The present market being so glutted with more attractive issues, it appeared that months would pass before a par bid would be forthcoming.

At the same time several Ashland citizens stood ready to take small blocks of the bonds at par, simply to help the project forward; thus some ten to fifteen thousand might be absorbed. The commission started in search of a feasible, and legal, plan whereby that might be accomplished, the work started and the rest of the bonds be either traded on contracts or sold as the work progressed.

It would require about sixty days to complete the detail plans and not to exceed ten thousand dollars would be needed for the purpose. The local sale would meet that, and allow sixty days in which to offer the bonds before more money would be needed. In fact, more funds would not be needed for ninety days, for that time must elapse before contracts could be let and work on them progress to a point where estimates would be due. So, the problem resolved itself into how to get the funds, to start, and proceed with work while the bond market was improving to a point where our bonds would be absorbed through regular channels.

The commission devised this plan: It proposed to have the council advertise for bids in the regular way. A member of the commission would file a bid of par and accrued interest for the whole issue, thus meeting the requirements of the law, with a stipulation that the bonds would be executed and placed in the hands of the city treasurer with instructions to deliver one, or any number, or all of them, upon payment of par and accrued interest to date of delivery. That would complete the sale, as far as the council was concerned, protect the city by not allowing any bond to be delivered until the money was placed in the hands of the city treasurer, and leave the issue in such shape that any citizen, any day, could drop into the treasurer's office and pay for one or more bonds and have them at once delivered and the funds become available for the work as needed. Moreover, if at any time the market became normal so that some

bond house would pay par and accrued interest for all the bonds remaining unsold at the time the city treasurer could deliver them without further delay or red tape. The commission intending to keep the bonds before the bond houses and the public all the time with that view.

Besides that, if sufficient bonds had not been taken by the time plans were completed, contracts could be entered into for construction whereby either bonds or cash would be accepted on contracts, and if, when the first estimates were due, cash was not on hand, bonds would be paid instead.

By this plan the work could be put forward and finished for the 1915 tourist traffic with less loss, if any, than would accrue by selling the bonds at 90, 91 or even 95 cents on the dollar.

The plan was submitted to the eastern bond attorneys and approved as legal by them.

The commission then presented the matter to the council with full confidence that it would be approved by that body. However, the council deemed it better to again advertise for bids in the hope of finding a cash buyer for the bonds. Following that idea the city recorder was ordered, at last Tuesday night's meeting, to publish such an advertisement in eastern bond papers asking that bids be submitted on January 26.

The springs commission is very much in hope that a par bid will be received, but it very much doubts it. It appears that the state of the bond market is such that many months will elapse before the Ashland bonds will bring par through the regular channels.

The springs commission asked the council to also order the city recorder to advertise for bids in a local paper in which the certified check feature would be eliminated to receive bids on January 27, so that the springs commission might have a legal opportunity to make its contemplated bid. The matter, however, was laid over and will be again considered at the council meeting tomorrow night.

Chairman Greer stated to the council that if the springs commission plan was adopted by the council the work on the project would be under way within ten days from the time the offer was accepted and would go forward continuously to completion.

**Railroad Gives
Many Employment**

The railroad shops at Sacramento, Bakersfield, San Francisco and Dunsmuir, Cal., at Sparks, Nev., Oakland, Ore., Ogden, Utah, and Tucson, Ariz., have renewed their activities after a considerable period of inaction due to the general retrenchment last fall. They will work on a five-day, eight-hour basis at present and will give employment to about six thousand men who have been out of work. It is thought that this is the forerunner of renewed activity in all branches of the Southern Pacific system.

**Commercial Club
Meeting Tonight**

How can we best advertise Ashland at the San Francisco exposition? This should be decided at the Commercial Club meeting tonight. Other matters of importance also. There should be a large attendance at tonight's meeting.

Every family in Ashland should send away at least one dozen copies of the

Tidings Springs Edition

It is pronounced by all to be the cleanest, best printed and most effective piece of advertising matter ever produced in Ashland.

It is a duty, as it should be the privilege, of every citizen to do his part in distributing them.

50c the Dozen, at Tidings Office

**Grading Commenced
Hornbrook-Yreka**

Contractor Johnson has arrived at Hornbrook from Portland with his grading outfit and is preparing to grade the Pacific highway from Hornbrook to Yreka. By the terms of his contract this work must be completed by June 1.

Contractor Mason has practically completed the grading from Hornbrook north to the Oregon line. One or two of the heavier fills have to be repaired before the work will be accepted by the state. This will be done before spring and the highway will be ready for surfacing from Ashland to Yreka not later than the first of June.

Other units of the Pacific highway have been let in California and it is hoped to have a paved surface into San Francisco by midsummer.

The grade over the Siskiyou mountains will be allowed to settle during the winter months and in the spring hard surface will be put on from Ashland south to Yreka.

**Mail-Tribune's
Special Edition**

The new year's edition, 1915, of the Medford Mail Tribune is a subject for hearty congratulation. Considering the depressed times throughout the country, the results reflect, in a high degree, the optimism and stamina of that community and the courage of the Mail Tribune management to assume such an undertaking under the circumstances. The city of Medford is a live number. The people in it maintain, under adversity, the same restless spirit that existed when everything in America was going forward by leaps and bounds. Such spirit cannot be downed. Medford will be among the first of American municipalities to come back when the depression of European war loses its grip on the country. And the Mail Tribune is in no small degree responsible for the splendid enterprise and grit of the city.

Wanted.

Board and room at reasonable price, near Plaza, by single man. Address Mack, this office.

**Week of Prayer
By United Churches**

The combined churches will hold a week of prayer and union meetings from January 4 to 10, all of the churches uniting to make this week one to be remembered. The subjects at the Presbyterian church are: Monday, Holy Spirit and Prayer; Tuesday, Christian Brotherhood; Wednesday, Educational Night. At the Baptist church: Thursday, The Home; Friday, Home Missions; Saturday, Foreign Missions. This week will be followed by evangelistic services, the first week following at Methodist church. The Ministerial Association plans on strong sermons throughout and has arranged for special music by a large chorus. The public is cordially urged and invited to attend.

The storm which has been covering Mt. Ashland and the surrounding hills for the past few days has been a wonderful sight. While the valley has been warm and balmy, snow has fallen almost constantly in the hills.

**Mining Plans
For the Spring**

J. B. Harrell has just returned to his home in Ashland. Mr. Harrell has had a wide and varied experience in mining and milling and has been engaged for the last three months by the Vesuvius Mining Company of the Bohemia district, remodeling and putting their milling plant into shape to treat the ore successfully.

The Vesuvius mine is one of the large mines of the district. There are other good mining properties in this district which will be opened up in the spring or as soon as the snow is off. The Bohemia mines are thirty-five miles east of Cottage Grove, with a good wagon road to the mines.

The fact that gold bars are being sent down monthly is the proof that the gold is there.

**County Schools
Are Flourishing**

Some light was thrown on the school tax question by the hearing before the county court Thursday forenoon for the purpose of reducing or keeping intact the \$15 per capita apportionment as it had been set by the county court earlier in the year.

It was found that of the districts which have increased school levies this year, those that were mentioned especially had increased expenses to meet.

Talent is paying out more for fuel, janitor service, teachers and remodeling of building as well as trying to square up a deficit of last year.

Phoenix is paying for more teachers and more equipment.

Eagle Point is trying to pay debts left over from last year. Gold Hill likewise is paying for more teachers and trying to square up last year's debts.

Medford being a first class district, must cash its warrants as they do not bear interest, consequently the additional sum of money for the \$15 apportionment will just about allow the old warrants to be redeemed at an earlier date.

There seemed to be a universal opinion among the twenty-five or thirty school officers present that any retraction of the \$15 apportionment would compel districts to shorten their term of school or borrow money on time warrants, as the school budgets have been made on that basis.

There was no one present to offer reasons why the county levy of three mills should not be made. The one question seemed to be whether it would be more feasible for the school district to borrow money, owing to a reduction of the levy, or for the individual to borrow money to pay his taxes with.

Evidence went to show that at least three other counties in the state have as great a per capita apportionment. Klamath county has \$25 per capita and the county superintendent states in a letter that only one man in the county opposed it and his district was actually getting about \$1.30 for every dollar paid in.

It was found that thirty-nine districts of the county were able to reduce their special levies this year and nineteen increased.

**Randles Choice to
Succeed Hubbard**

Local sportsmen have joined in recommending Joe Randles of this city to the state game authorities as the best man in this district to succeed Game Warden Hubbard. All who know Mr. Randles say he is highly qualified, both as to experience and temperament. Mr. Randles was raised in the district which comes under the charge of the game warden and knows the country from A to Z. He is an experienced woodsman and has spent three years in the service of the government as forest ranger.

The game warden is appointed by State Game Warden Finley upon recommendation of District Warden Sandry. Those who are in touch with the proposition are anxious to see Mr. Randles appointed.

**141 Forest Fires
During Past Year**

The annual report of the Jackson County Fire Patrol Association shows that there were 141 fires in the 1914 season, burning over 25,959 acres, with a loss of only 16,000 feet, board measure, valued at \$1,700. The cost of fire fighting amounted to \$4,350, while the cost per acre was about 3 cents.

Twenty-four miles of telephone were built in the forest regions, at a cost of \$1,125, and the association hired thirteen patrolmen, a supervision warden and shared with the government the expense of four more patrolmen.

Considering the excessively dry season, this record is regarded as an excellent one, reflecting great credit upon the association.

The rains for the past few days have been splendid. The only fault is that the downpour has not been as great as the ranchers would desire for this season of the year.

Tidings "For Sale" ads are active little real estate salesmen.